

BEAVER BROOK & MONDO PONDS

Milford, CT

This walk travels through two relatively flat open space areas with gravel trails. There are several alternatives for parking so the trails can be walked in whatever order you like with a short walk across the street to connect the two. The Mondo Park Nature Preserve and Education Center is approximately 149-acres and is located behind JFK Elementary School. The school often uses the ponds to supplement classroom science curriculum. The Park's hiking trail is approximately three quarter miles long and will take you through five ponds and a wetlands. The Mondo ponds were created in the 1950s when a contractor working on the nearby Connecticut Turnpike excavated gravel leaving behind deep holes which filled with ground water and run-off and are now home to numerous waterfowl and fish.

Mondo Ponds and the Beaver Brook reservoir (just south of Schoolhouse Road) were last used as part of the public water supply during the 1970s. On a summer day fisherfolk of all ages can be seen trying their luck at the ponds. From the Mondo Ponds, a short walk along West Avenue and under I-95 leads to the second open space area—the 55-acre Beaver Brook conservation easement (owned by the nearby Kingdom Life Church). The Beaver Brook Trail is 1.3 miles long and has an elevated wooden walkway bridge through the wetlands that is great for strollers. This area has a "pond," which is really two branches of the Beaver Brook that often has extensive wetlands in the middle. The areas have lush vegetation and a feeling of remote wetlands and woods—with the exception of the low rumble sounds of the Connecticut Turnpike (I-95) in the background. The highway separates the two properties.

Photo by Kingdom Life Church



Both areas are great for birding, in particular, the Beaver Brook wetlands bridge that has a viewing platform and benches at its western end. Waterfowl are more prevalent at the Mondo Ponds, while a variety of songbirds and sometimes other migrating birds can be seen in the wetlands at Beaver Brook.

Directions and Parking:

Mondo Ponds and Beaver Brook can be reached from I-95 via exit 35 (Schoolhouse Road) or locally via Route 1 (Bridgeport Avenue) to Schoolhouse Road. From Schoolhouse Road take West Avenue to parking at JFK Elementary School (outside of school hours), at the northern entrance of Beaver Brook on West Avenue or on Naugatuck Avenue near Grinnell Street.

Permitted Activities:

Passive recreation only. No swimming. Fishing is permitted during summer months.

This project made possible through a grant from the National Recreational Trails Program, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.



Information for this brochure is excerpted from the Milford Favorite Walks Book.

For more information about this walk, contact:

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